

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interface device for interfacing between a networkable device and a network, comprising:

5 a hub with plural ports and constructed to repeat network transmissions received on one port to all other ports, said plural ports including a first port connectable to the network, a second port connectable to the networkable device, and a third port connectable to a circuit board having network functionality;

10 an isolation switch controllable operable to isolate the first port from network transmissions repeated by the hub; and

15 an interface to the isolation switch, said interface to accept a control signal for operation of the isolation switch;

wherein the circuit board includes control functionality to provide the control signal.

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2. An interface device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface is part of the third port.

25 3. An interface device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface is distinct from the third port.

4. An interface device according to Claim 1, further comprising said circuit board, wherein

network functionality of said circuit board provides extended functionality for the networkable device.

5           5. An interface device according to Claim 4, wherein the networkable device comprises a printer, and wherein the extended functionality is functionality for secure printing.

10           6. An interface device according to Claim 4, wherein said circuit board listens for network transmissions at the same address as that of said networkable device.

15           7. An interface device according to Claim 6, wherein said control functionality provides the control signal based on the port number of the address.

20           8. An interface device according to Claim 6, wherein said control functionality provides the control signal based on the extended functionality.

25           9. An interface device according to Claim 4, wherein said control functionality provides the control signal based on the extended functionality of said circuit board.

30           10. A method for isolating a network from a networkable device using an interface device having a hub and a circuit board, said hub having plural ports and constructed to repeat network

transmissions received on one port to all other ports, said plural ports including a first port connected to the network, a second port connected to the networkable device, and a third port connected to the circuit board, said hub further including an isolation switch controllably operable to isolate the first port from network transmissions repeated by the hub, said method comprising:

maintaining the isolation switch in a pass-through mode in which network transmissions are repeated to the first port;

receiving a job addressed to the networkable device but at a port number to which the networkable device does not respond;

implementing network functionality on the circuit board to respond to the network transmission addressed to the networkable device;

setting the isolation switch to a bypass mode in which the hub does not repeat network communications to the first port;

transmitting a network transmission from the circuit board to the networkable device and on a port number to which the networkable device listens; and

toggling the isolation switch to the pass-through mode after the network transmission to the networkable device is complete.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the networkable device is a printer, and

wherein network functionality of the circuit board provides extended functionality for the printer.

5           12. A method according to Claim 11,  
wherein in said setting step, the isolation switch  
is set to the bypass mode based on the extended  
functionality.

10           13. A method according to Claim 11,  
wherein the extended functionality implements secure  
printing.

15           14. A method according to Claim 10,  
wherein said networkable device listens for network  
transmissions on a specific port number.

            15. A method according to Claim 14,  
wherein in said setting step, the isolation switch  
is set to the bypass mode in response to network  
transmissions on the specific port number.